

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. By this paper, claims 1 and 20 have been amended, and claims 1-20 remain pending. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are hereby respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Telephone Interview

The examiner, Mr. Joseph Waks, contacted the applicant by telephone today, June 26, 2003, to discuss independent claims 1 and 20. Resolution was reached on amendments to place the claims in condition for allowance. The applicants are grateful to and wish to thank the examiner for initiating the discussion. The amendments presented herein reflect the substance of the interview.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Baumann et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,749,953 in view of Lukens, U.S. Patent No. 3,643,119. In view of the foregoing amendments and the interview, the combination of Lukens and Baumann fails to render obvious independent claims 1 and 20, as well as the corresponding dependent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are hereby respectfully solicited.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will place this case in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of the undersigned's firm.

Respectfully submitted,


Bryan J. Lempia
Reg. No. 39,746
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN
233 S. Wacker Dr.
6300 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800